

* ITINERARY UPDATE: MARCH 10-18, 2018

9 Days / 8 nights

BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

**Now includes one post-voyage hotel night at the CostaBaja Resort & Spa*

SATURDAY, MARCH 10: DEPART HOME/SAN JOSE DEL CABO/LA PAZ

Upon arrival in San Jose del Cabo, transfer to La Paz and embark the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 11: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Today is a day with the luxury of no specific plan. You may spend time on the lookout for whales, bottlenose and common dolphins, or explore some of the many uninhabited islands such as Isla San Francisco or Isla San Jose, known for its sweeping beaches and arroyos. Birdlife may be plentiful, and the nutrient-rich sea is home to an overwhelming variety of fish: king angelfish, surgeonfish, butterfly fish, damselfish, and the beautiful parrotfish. (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 12: LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which are provided), and swim with curious sea lions. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to swim, kayak, paddleboard, or hike at Espíritu Santo. Brown pelicans, gulls, and boobies are all part of the landscape. Finish the day with a relaxing beach barbecue complete with bonfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 13: GORDA BANKS AND LOS CABOS

Spend the morning at the Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, gathering places for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins and other sea life. In the afternoon, cruise past Friars Rocks at Land's End. For those who wish, we will arrange a visit to the historic town center of San José del Cabo. (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14–FRIDAY, MARCH 16: BAHÍA MAGDALENA

Navigate through an immense system of protected coves and channels, surrounded by a fringe of mangrove channels at one edge of a vast, windswept plain. Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. Observe migrating whales from the ship and up close from expedition landing craft. Watch for magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, great blue herons, ibis, and willets. (B,L,D daily)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17: SAN CARLOS/DISEMBARK/LA PAZ

Disembark the ship in San Carlos and transfer to La Paz, where you'll have lunch at a local restaurant before checking in to the CostaBaja Resort & Spa. This afternoon is on your own, to relax and take advantage of the resort and spa amenities. (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 18: LA PAZ/SAN JOSE DEL CABO/HOME

Transfer to San Jose del Cabo airport for flights home. (B)